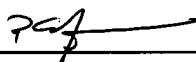


the claims of the parent application, but define aspects of the invention not specifically recited, per se, in the parent case. All pending claims of the present Application are believed to be clearly patentable and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative can expedite prosecution of the present Application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/14/00



Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER, YODER & VAN SOMEREN
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545